

# The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's **EXCITER**



## RARS EVENTS:

- The RARS General Membership meeting is the 1st Tuesday of the month.
- The RARS net meets every night @ 8 PM on 146.640.
- The RARS Technical & Trader's net is Saturdays @ 8:30 PM or following the RARS net.
- RARS meets for a monthly dinner on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

## Calling All HAMS: Come Operate Aboard BB-55 Information from Scuttlebutt, Newsletter of the Battleship North Carolina

Our dedicated radio volunteers from the Azalea Coast Amateur Radio Club approached us several months ago with an idea they borrowed from the USS MISSOURI. They wanted to offer fellow HAMS the opportunity to transmit from the Battleship NORTH CAROLINA's radio rooms. Thanks to their willingness to staff this program, it is a reality.

Image Source: [www.ncdcr.gov](http://www.ncdcr.gov)



Operating under the call of the ship, NI4BK, guests may enjoy a 2-hour appointment with a club member who will meet them at the Battleship ticket window. Operations will be on a 20-meter voice using a modern transceiver located in the ship's original main radio room. For operators who prefer CW (Morse code), transmissions will occur from the ship's main transmitter room. Operators will need to bring their own key or use the ship's straight key. Azalea Coast members will take care of all QSL cards. Appointments are free with regular paid ship admission. To make an appointment, please contact Kim Sincox, Museum Services Director: 910-251-5797 extension 3006 or [museum@battleshipnc.com](mailto:museum@battleshipnc.com).

## Next RARS Meeting: August 4

The August RARS program will be  
"Grounding: Down to Earth Comments" by  
Alan Pitegoff AB4OZ and Clyde Carl WB2EYC.

## **RARS OFFICERS:**

### **PRESIDENT**

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### **VICE-PRESIDENT**

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## **The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society**

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the amateur radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, the society incorporated a new RARS and obtained 501(c)(3) non-profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through amateur radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic needs; to educate members in radio technique, and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining amateur radio licenses.

Anyone interested in amateur radio is eligible to apply for membership. Dues for regular licensed amateurs are \$18 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay \$5 each per year. Dues for licensed amateurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are \$12 per year. Dues for non-licensed associate members are \$9 per year. Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer or on the RARS website ([www.rars.org](http://www.rars.org)).



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## **The Exciter**

The *Exciter* is the official newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It appears each month as a PDF on the RARS website at [www.rars.org](http://www.rars.org). Members receive email notification when the latest version is available. Please provide your email address to the Treasurer.

The *Exciter* welcome articles, advertisements, and other contributions. To submit a piece to the newsletter, please contact the Editor.

The views expressed in the *Exciter* are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or RARS.

The Editor reserves the right to edit any and all pieces.

The submission deadline for each month's *Exciter* is the third Friday of the preceding month. All submissions must be final. Drafts are not accepted.

Editor: Courtney Enzor KI4HOS ([editor@rars.org](mailto:editor@rars.org))

### **RARS General Meeting**

*Date:* First Tuesday of each month

*Location:* First Alliance Church  
4400 Buffaloe Road  
Raleigh, NC

*Time:* People begin arriving at 7 PM. The meeting officially begins at 7:30 PM.

### **RARS Monthly Dinner**

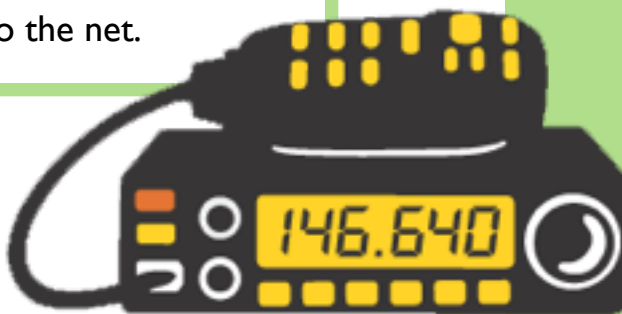
Join us on the 2nd Tuesday of each month for the RARS dinner. It's open to everyone: RARS members, non-members, friends, and family – feel free to bring your little ones! Dinner begins at 6:30 pm.

Listen to the nightly RARS net and check [www.rars.org](http://www.rars.org) for details on the next dinner's location.

### **RARS Repeaters in Raleigh**

145.130 (82.5 PL), 146.640, & 444.525 (82.5 PL)

Join us for the nightly RARS net @ 8 PM on the 146.640. All hams holding a Technician class license or higher are invited to check in. We welcome both RARS and non-RARS member to the net.



## **VE TESTING**

The RARS VEs will accept walk-in testing at the February, May, August, and November RARS meetings; the RARSFest in April; the Cary Swapfest in July; the JARSFest in November; and following RARS license classes.

Please bring a photo ID, your current license, a copy of your current license, your \$15 exam fee, and any CSCEs you have for credit. Visit [www.rars.org](http://www.rars.org) for more information.

## Upcoming Hamfests

- 8/8 CFARS Swapfest  
Fayetteville, NC  
For more info, contact [David KR4OE](#)
- 8/15- ARRL Alabama Section Convention  
8/16 Huntsville, AL  
<http://www.hamfest.org/>
- 8/22 ARRL West Virginia State Convention  
Weston, WV  
<http://www.qsl.net/wvsarc/>
- 9/5- Shelby Hamfest  
9/6 Dallas, NC  
<http://shelbyhamfest.org/hamfest.htm>
- 9/12- Virginia Beach Hamfest  
9/13 Virginia Beach, VA  
<http://www.vabeachhamfest.com/>
- 9/12 Greater Louisville Hamfest  
Sheperdsville, KY  
<http://louisvillehamfest.com/>
- 9/25- 10th Annual TEN-TEC Factory Hamfest  
9/26 Sevierville, TN  
<http://radio.tentec.com/Hamfest>

## June Birthdays

Lem	KI4YXS	8/4
Mel	K4FEP	8/8
Clement	KD4BMA	8/8
Andy	NI4S	8/10
Nola	KD4OLZ	8/12
Jim	WD8MZR	8/13
Paul	AE4MN	8/15
Mike	KI4WIY	8/15
Bernard	W4BRB	8/17
Randy	KI4BRZ	8/20
Al	KE4IHX	8/20
Red	AC4QX	8/21
Steve	N4BTS	8/22
Mirl	W4WMA	8/22
Steve	KJ4BX	8/23
Hal	K4NKR	8/24
Jack	KI4YXK	8/24
Don	N8DDK	8/27
Jack	W5WSF	8/28
Edward	N4SSU	8/29
Charlie	W4VFJ	8/30

## Welcome to RARS!

Mirl Austin	W4WMA
Don Cowden	N8DDK
Bruce Graham	N4BGG

## June 2009 RARS Net Reports

Checkins: 420	Special Interest Nets:
Traffic: 23/20	Checkins: 165
Minutes: 530	Minutes: 1020
Sessions: 30	Sessions: 17

## **Minutes by Charles Swindell WB4DCM, RARS Secretary June 16, 2009 RARS Board Meeting Minutes**

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society Board of Directors held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, June 16, 2009 at the Triangle Radio Reading Service on Six Forks Road, Raleigh.

President Selene KG4RMT called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM. In addition to the President, the following Board members were present: Hank K4HM, John AI4RT, Greg KE4PAX, Gary KN4AQ, Ken KI4OTO and Charlie WB4DCM. There was one visitor, David KD4PAG. The minutes of the last Board meeting were approved as written.

Treasurer Greg KE4PAX advised that RARS now have 272 members. The bulk mail certificate has been renewed. An undeposited check to Forest Hills Baptist Church will be replaced. Donations to the Triangle Radio Reading Service, AMSAT, News Line and ARRL Classroom will be disbursed. Payment to First Alliance Church for six months rent will be sent. Hank K4HM, Ken KI4OTO and Greg KE4PAX will do a financial review.

VP Karl W4CHX was not present but has indicated that the program for July will be "Satellites on a Budget." Contributions for snacks were up in June.

### **Committee Reports:**

- The Education committee has advised that the next class will be in the fall. It will be a Technician Class.
- John AI4RT reports that the field day net has been lightly attended. The simplex frequency for field day will be 147.42 Mhz.
- Public Service Chair John AI4RT advises that the next event will be the Firecracker bike ride in Cary on July 4. Seven to eight volunteers are needed. Then in September there are two events: the MS bike ride in New Bern and the Ride Without Limits in Wake Forest.
- Hamfest Chair John AI4RT thinks that we may need to increase prices for the next hamfest. The committee will review this issue and report back to the Board.
- FM Repeater Chair Gary KN4AQ states that he hopes to have the 444.525 Mhz repeater back on the air by field day.
- Public Information Officer Gary KN4AQ will do a press release for field day.
- A note from the Exciter editor, Courtney KI4HOS, requests that all articles for the July Exciter be submitted by Friday, June 19.

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- Web Master Hank K4HM states that the classified ads section can now be edited by the individuals. He is working on a data field that each member will have their own login and can update as needed.
- David KD4PAG raised the question if RARS has ever help sponsor a DXpedition. Discussion indicated that the cost would be prohibitive. However, members could do a remote operation from some area of the state that would not involve much expense to the individuals.

#### Old Business:

- Greg KE4PAX states that a copy of the RARS insurance policy will be available to the Board. Also, a certificate as an additional insured has been issued for the Carroll's.
- The issue of how to recognize Danny Hampton K4ITL was tabled until later.
- Ken KI4OTO advised that he had written a letter to Camp Kanata advising that it appeared that their proposal may violate FCC rules but offering to do an amateur radio program. He has not received a reply as yet.

#### New Business:

- John AI4RT expressed the opinion that our storage facility was too small. He suggested that RARS look into acquiring a larger store room. Greg KE4PAX will check it out and report to the next meeting.

#### Board Comments:

- Ken KI4OTO suggested that in lieu of a true DXpedition that we could go to sparsely populated county in eastern NC and participate in county hunting. He is interested in antique radios. He will put together a proposal for a SIG and present at a future meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

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## **Minutes by Charles Swindell WB4DCM, RARS Secretary**

# **July 9, 2009 RARS General Meeting Minutes**

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, July 7, 2009 at the First Alliance Church on Buffaloe Road, Raleigh. There were 56 members and guests present. The guests were: Jack WB6JZY, Don N8DDK, Greg KJ4AED, Ryan Younce, Candy Orr, and Charles WA4OSS.

The meeting was called to order by President Selene KG4RMT at 7:30 PM. Everyone was welcomed and reminded to sign in. Visitors were welcomed and introduced. Minutes of the last meeting as published in the Exciter were approved as published.

Our Treasurer Greg KE4PAX advised that we now have 157 members. July 1 is the start of our new year and dues are now due. At the end of last fiscal year, we had 272 members. Donations for other organizations, such as ARRL, AMSAT, and TRRS which were budgeted in our last fiscal year have been remitted.

VP Karl W4CHX announced that our program for August will be "Grounding: down to earth comments" by Alan AB4OZ and Clyde WB2EYC.

President Selene made the following announcements:

- Our regularly scheduled supper will be Tuesday, July 14 at the Golden Corral.
- The Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 21 at the Triangle Radio Reading Service. All members are invited to attend.
- The Cary Swapfest will be held at Ritter Park on Saturday, July 18.
- WCARS hamfest in Asheville will be on July 25.
- The CFARS Swapfest will be held at the Methodist College in Fayetteville on August 8.
- The Shelby Hamfest is not sending out flyers. Go to their web site for information.

Public Service Chair John AI4RT was not present at the meeting but sent his thanks to all of those that participated in the Firecracker bike race.

Dick KD4ISC took the floor to push for help with the MS Bike ride in New Bern. There will be approximately 2100 bike riders and amateur radio operators are needed to provide communications. The race is Saturday and Sunday, September 12 and 13.

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Next, Field Day Chair Mike WA4BPJ, to much applause, took the floor to briefly discuss field day. He asked that all who participated in field day, to please stand. Mike then went through a review of our score and compared it to previous years as well as the scores of our competition. At the moment, it looks like we have done quite well, perhaps even first place!

The door prizes were won by AJ4MJ and KE6FNW.

VP Karl W4CHX introduced our program, "Satellites on a Budget" by Justin AJ4MJ and Don N8DDK. Satellites can have a low orbit, high orbit or they can have a fixed position above the earth. Most ham satellites are of the low orbit type. Some satellites are kind of like a repeater in the sky: one signal in and one signal out at a time. Linear satellites are more accommodating and can handle multiple QSO's. Either way, keep your transmissions short. Give your call sign and grid square one time and that's it. Satellite availability is only minutes.

Some of the equipment that you will need is: compass, watch, pass predictor, headphones, and a voice recorder. Of course, a 2 meter rig, 440 handheld and a home brew antenna will help. You will need that voice recorder as QSO's run so fast that you will not have time to do written logs. There are free programs available which can be used to plot the satellite orbit, angles and times that it will be available to you. And, once again another great program at RARS. Thanks to Justin and Don.

President Selene reminded everyone that the RARS web page has ads for sale of personal gear. Also, we will have our usual gathering after the meeting.

VP Karl W4CHX thanked everyone for the contributions for the snacks. There are some snack items left over and please take them with you.

Chuck K4HF stated that RARS is a member of AMSAT and that we receive their journal. Since the program tonight was on satellites, he would like to pass the journal to anyone who might be interested in satellite operations. Hamfest in Salisbury this weekend.

President Selene extended a special welcome to Sam Johnson NC4SJ.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM.



# Local Amateur Radio Nets

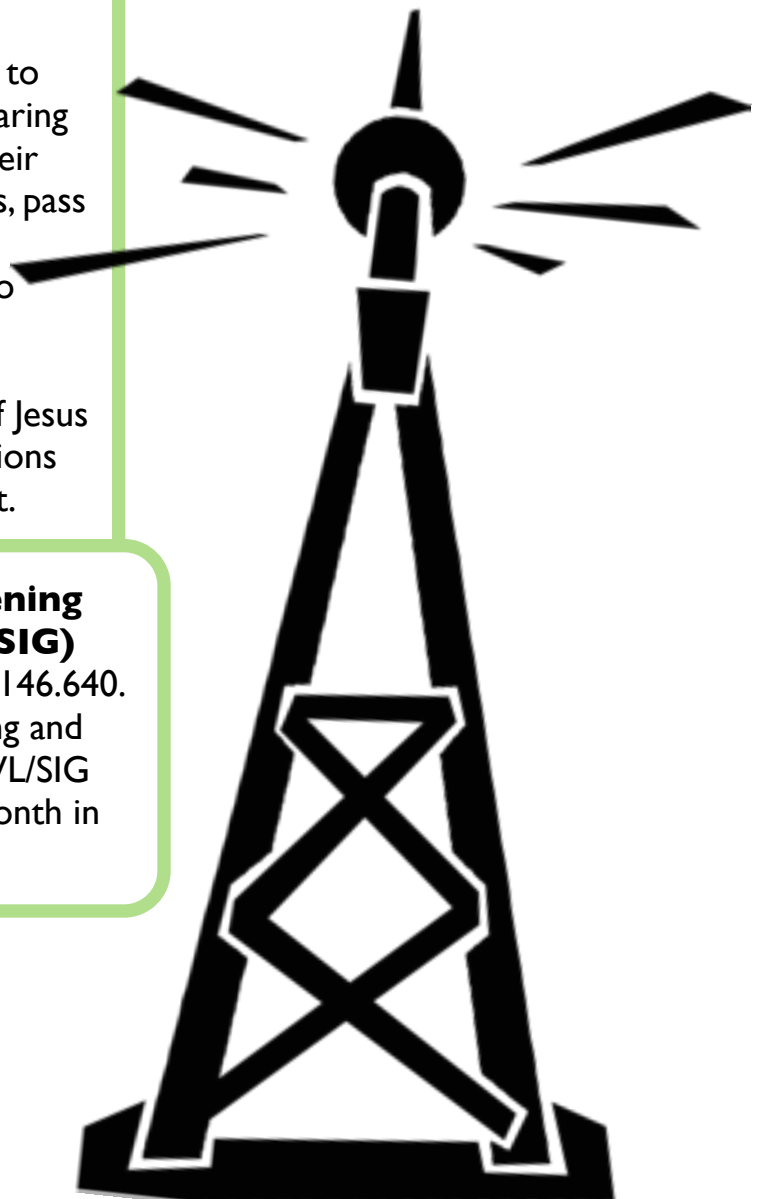
The **RARS Technical & Trader's Net** is held on Saturday evenings on the 146.640 after the 8 PM RARS net.

## **Apex Emergency Response Communications Net**

This net meets weekly each Sunday evening @ 9 PM on the 146.640 repeater. The purpose of the net is to assist ham radio operators in preparing to respond to emergencies, test their equipment, improve operating skills, pass traffic, and to provide those with a common interest an opportunity to meet. The Apex ERC Net provides amateur radio emergency communications for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. All stations are invited to participate in this net.

Join the **Tarheel Shortwave Listening (SWL) Special Interest Group (SIG) Net** on Monday evenings @ 9 PM on 146.640. We discuss *all* areas of radio monitoring and welcome your logs! We also have a SWL/SIG meeting on the third Monday of the month in addition to our regular net.

The **VOIP Hurricane Net** is held Sundays at 00:00 UTC on the 146.775 repeater with a tone of 88.5 (IRLP node 4260). For information about activation details, go to [www.voipwx.net](http://www.voipwx.net).



# Local Amateur Radio Nets

Join us every evening at 8 PM on the 146.640 repeater for the **RARS Two-Meter Net**. You can give a ragchew, check in and out (this counts for our total numbers reported to the ARRL!), make announcements, and pass traffic. We also offer National Traffic System traffic training. All licensed stations are welcome to participate in the net as often as they can. This net is also a great way to learn about amateur radio if you are newly licensed!

The **PCTN (Piedmont Costal Traffic Net)** meets every night at 9 PM on the 146.880. The purpose of the net is to handle/pass NTS formal messages. Amateur stations are encouraged to check in and participate. The backup repeater is the 147.105 (PL tone 82.5).

The **Wake County ARES Net** meets Thursdays around 2115 on the 146.880 repeater. We provide discussion and training for the implementation and provision of emergency communications for our served agencies, such as the American

Red Cross and the local and state Emergency Operations Center. Please join us. For more information, check out [www.wakeares.org](http://www.wakeares.org).

## Central Carolina SKYWARN

Please join us each Tuesday @ 9:15 PM on the 146.880 repeater for the CCS net. On each net there are announcements, check-ins by county, and often a program or training spot. Check us out at [www.centralcarolinaskywarn.net](http://www.centralcarolinaskywarn.net).

August 4: "Safe Boating Weather Tips" with NWS Warning Coordination Meteorologist Jeff Orrock KI4KKX.

August 25: Program Topic TBA; guest will be Meteorologist-in-Charge Darin Figungskey.

Please join us on the **Carolina 440 Net** every Monday night at 7:30 PM. This ragchew net utilizes the Carolina 440 UHF Link Repeater System. Comprised of the Raleigh, Down East, and Coastal Wilmington link systems, there are currently 19 repeaters on the system, covering 21,168 square miles. For a list of these repeaters, please visit [www.carolina440.net](http://www.carolina440.net).

**Looking for the latest in  
public service opportunities?  
Visit [www.rars.org](http://www.rars.org) to find  
out about upcoming events  
and sign up.**

*The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's*

**EXCITER**

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